

United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Name of Assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge	WILLIAM T. HART	Sitting Judge if Other than Assigned Judge	
CASE NUMBER	12 C 0554	DATE	1/31/2012
CASE TITLE	James Barksdale (868672) v. Circuit Court of Cook County		

DOCKET ENTRY TEXT:

The petitioner's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* [#3] is granted. On the court's own motion, the Director of the Rushville Treatment and Detention Facility is substituted as respondent in place of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The respondent is ordered to answer the petition or otherwise plead within twenty-one days of the date of this order. The petitioner's motion for appointment of counsel [#4] is denied as premature.

■ [For further details see text below.]

Docketing to mail notices.

STATEMENT

James Barksdale, a civil detainee in the custody of the Illinois Department of Human Services, has filed a *pro se* petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The petitioner challenges his civil commitment under the Sexually Violent Persons Act, apparently on the grounds that: (1) the laws in effect at the time he was convicted did not authorize civil commitment after the criminal sentence was served; (2) the State fabricated evidence; and (3) the commitment proceedings violated the Speedy Trial Act.

The petitioner having shown that he is indigent, his motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* is granted.

The petitioner maintains that he has exhausted state court remedies as to all claims raised in his habeas petition and appears to have filed this action in a timely manner. Accordingly, the respondent is ordered to answer the petition or otherwise plead within twenty-one days of the date this order is entered on the clerk's docket. This preliminary order to respond does not, of course, preclude the State from making whatever arguments and raising any defenses it may wish to present.

The petitioner is instructed to file all future papers concerning this action with the Clerk of Court in care of the Prisoner Correspondent. The petitioner must provide the court with the original plus a judge's copy (including a complete copy of any exhibits) of every document filed. In addition, the petitioner must send an exact copy of any court filing to the Chief, Criminal Appeals Division, Attorney General's Office, 100 West Randolph Street, 12th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Every document filed by the petitioner must include a
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STATEMENT (continued)

certificate of service stating to whom exact copies were sent and the date of mailing. Any paper that is sent directly to the judge or that otherwise fails to comply with these instructions may be disregarded by the court or returned to the petitioner.

The petitioner's motion for appointment of counsel is denied at this time as premature. Counsel must be appointed in a habeas corpus proceeding only if an evidentiary hearing is needed or if interests of justice so require. *See* Rule 8(c), Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. Whether the interests of justice require appointment of counsel in this case cannot be determined until after the court has had an opportunity to review and consider the respondent's answer to the petition.

Finally, on the court's own motion, Rushville's Director is substituted as the respondent. The proper respondent in a Section 2254 action is the petitioner's custodian. *See, e.g., U.S. ex rel. Green v. Bryant*, No. 01 C 6625, 2004 WL 442673, at *1, n. 1 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 10, 2004) (Lefkow, J.). The Cook County Circuit Court is not an appropriate respondent.